

plaited, the top and second plait semibifurcated, pure white, shining and porcellanous, as is also the interior of the mouth and the under part of the shell; aperture elongated, lip simple, not thickened; of a dull whitish-brown colour above.

Length 3 inches, breadth $1\frac{1}{2}$, height $1\frac{4}{15}$.

Hab. Banks's Straits.

This beautiful species, of which I have two specimens in my cabinet, is at once distinguished from any other species by its dense, white, shining, porcellanous interior and under surface.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XXVI.

Figs. 1, 1a. *Cypræa thatcheri*, p. 358.

2a, 2b. *Voluta harfordi*, p. 358.

Fig. 3. *Voluta sclateri*, p. 358.

4. *Halotis hargravesi**, p. 49.

9. Some further Remarks on the Cuckoos found in the Neighbourhood of Sydney, and their Foster-parents. By E. P. RAMSAY, C.M.Z.S.

(Plate XXVII.)

In some former remarks on the Cuckoos found in the neighbourhood of Sydney (P. Z. S. 1865, p. 460), it will be remembered that the species recently termed by Mr. Gould *Lamprococcyx plagosus* and *L. basalis* (Gould's Handb. B. Austr. i. pp. 623, 626) were regarded as one species under the name of *Chalcites lucidus* (Gould's Birds of Austr. iv. pl. 89), and that I described their eggs as two varieties of the egg of the same species. At that time my remarks were so far correct. Now, however, as most ornithologists agree in considering *L. plagosus* and *L. basalis* distinct species (and *L. lucidus* from New Zealand as a third), it will be necessary to make a few remarks on the subject. My reasons for treating *L. plagosus* and *L. basalis* as varieties of the same species were manifold. The young on leaving the nest are scarcely (if at all) to be distinguished from one another; their notes are for the most part exactly alike; the colouring and marking of the eggs are not constantly different; and, lastly, the plumage of one is merely a shade lighter or darker than that of the other. The only differences of any value are the thinness of the bill in *L. basalis*, and the much deeper tint and greater extent of the rufous on the second and third outer tail-feathers; for it must be remembered, although seemingly overlooked by Mr. Gould, that the two tail-feathers next to the outer one on either side are distinctly marked with rufous in *L. plagosus*.

But, however slight the differences between these two species may be, either in the eggs, the young on leaving the nest, or in the fully adult birds, there is one fact that sets the question at rest, viz. that the young, about three months old, have the same characteristic

* For the description of this shell see Dr. Cox's previous paper, *antè* page 49.

markings as their parents, which fully proves that *L. basalis* cannot be the young of *L. plagosus*.

A young bird of *L. plagosus* now before me, shot in September and supposed to have been hatched in June, distinctly shows the wavy bands on the chest, breast, and flanks, also the rufous blotches, to the same extent as the adult, on the second and third outer tail-feathers on either side.

The accompanying coloured drawings represent the eggs of the various Cuckoos found in the neighbourhood of Sydney, and the eggs of their most usual foster-parents, as spoken of in my former paper. They are all taken from fresh specimens.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXVII.

Fig. 1. Egg of <i>Lamprococcyx plagosus</i> .	Fig. 7. Egg of <i>Acanthiza nana</i> .
2. „ ——— <i>basalis</i> .	8. „ <i>Geobasileus reguloides</i> .
3. „ <i>Cuculus inornatus</i> .	9. „ <i>Smicronis brevirostris</i> .
4. „ ——— <i>cineraceus</i> .	10. „ <i>Stipiturus malacurus</i> .
5. „ <i>Acanthiza lineata</i> .	11. „ <i>Chthonicola minima</i> .
6. „ ——— <i>pusilla</i> .	12. „ <i>Ptilotis auricomis</i> .

May 27, 1869.

W. H. Flower, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair.

Mr. J. E. Harting, F.Z.S., exhibited a skin of a rare wading bird, *Anarhynchus frontalis*, from New Zealand, together with three bills of the same species which had been saved from birds eaten by the natives, and remitted through the kindness of M. Jules Verreaux. He remarked that the chief peculiarity in this bird lay in the form of the bill, which was curved, not downwards as in *Numenius*, nor upwards as in *Recurvirostra*, but to one side, and that he had good grounds for believing that this peculiarity was constant. He had seen six examples of the bird, and had heard of others, in all of which the bill was curved as described. He had no doubt, from its general appearance, that its habits resembled those of *Strepsilas*, although it differed in other respects from the only two species known of this genus. He believed that its nearest ally would be found in another New-Zealand bird, *Thinornis novæ zealandiæ*, of which genus *Thinornis* another species, *Thinornis rossii*, had been found in the Auckland Islands. The bird now exhibited had been described so long ago as 1830 by MM. Quoy and Gaimard in their zoology of the 'Voyage de l'Astrolabe' (i. p. 252, pl. 31. fig. 2), and had since been noticed by Mr. G. R. Gray, in 'Dieffenbach's Travels in New Zealand' (ii. p. 196), in the 'Voyage of the Erebus and Terror' (Birds, p. 12), and in 'The Ibis' (1862, p. 234).

Mr. Harting proposed at some future time to offer some further remarks on this curious bird.